The above Minimum Wages have been notified by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central Ahmedabad) in accordance with Minimum Wages Act 1948. In addition, contract labourers engaged in the activities of ONGC in the state of Gujarat are being paid R$.50/- per person per day as per the order of Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) Mumbai.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The contract workers in Gujarat are getting the wages as per minimum wages notified by the appropriate/competent authorities.

(e) and (f) In Mumbai, the workers engaged by the Contractors in ONGC activities under new contracts are paid minimum wages as notified by the appropriate/competent Authorities. These rates are marginally higher than the rates for Gujarat.

In case of Assam, the Contractors engaged in ONGC activities are paying minimum wages to the contract workers in accordance with wages notified by the appropriate/competent authorities. These rates are lower than the minimum wages paid in Gujarat.

**Oil and gas reserves in Orissa**

†2354. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has explored huge deposits of oil and natural gas in the North East of Orissa;

(b) if so, by when this gas would be utilized; and

(c) whether it would be possible to utilize this gas for the proposed oil refinery in Paradeep?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has discovered gas in Mahanadi offshore block MN-OSN-2000/2 of the Orissa coast, awarded to consortium of ONGC, GAIL, IOC and OIL with ONGC as operator.

(b) The utilization of gas can only be considered after completion of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the assessment studies to know the extent and the full potential of the gas deposits.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

**Natural gas deal with Iran**

2355. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter relating to the implementation of $ 22 billion liquefied natural gas deal, was discussed with Iranian Government during his recent visit to that country; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas has not visited Iran, recently.

(b) Does not arise.

**Dependence of Navratna oil companies on foreign assistance**

†2356. DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many oil companies with Navratna status in the country are dependent on the assistance of foreign companies for production of crude oil and natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of these domestic companies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these domestic companies are earning annual dividend regularly for the last few years; and

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